This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for managing dataflow through a processing system, comprising:

gathering writes in a buffer before transmitting a burst of writes over an external bus;

monitoring the buffer to determine a number of writes in the buffer and whether the number of writes in the buffer exceed a predetermined threshold;

identifying an error condition when the number of writes in the buffer exceed the predetermined threshold; and

providing control over a rate of a number of writes provided to the buffer in response to the monitored number of writes in the buffer and the predetermined threshold;

wherein the providing control over a rate of a number of writes provided to the buffer further comprises providing a vector to a register and scanning the register for the vector to determine when the number of writes in the buffer is static and to slow writes to the buffer in response thereto.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing control further comprises slowing writes to the buffer when the writes in the buffer exceed the predetermined threshold.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the gathering writes in a buffer before transmitting a burst of writes over an external bus further comprises transmitting a burst of writes over a bus.

1   4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising initiating error recovery in

2   response to the writes in the buffer exceeding the predetermined threshold.

1   5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing an arbitration

2   signal for controlling access to the external bus in response to the comparison of the

3   writes in the buffer to the predetermined threshold.

1   6.   (Canceled)

1   7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing a vector

2   to a register further comprises asserting an interrupt line to the register to provide an

3   indication of an almost full state for the buffer in response to the vector.

1   8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising clearing the buffer when

2   the writes in the buffer exceed the predetermined threshold.

1   9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a timeout signal

2   for indicating when a transaction is not cleared from the buffer within a predetermined

3   amount of time and clearing the buffer and external bus transactions in response thereto.

1   10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining

2   whether an external interface is hung based upon detecting a static buffer pointer

3   representing a lack of movement of writes in the buffer and clearing the buffer and

4   external bus transactions when the external interface is hung.

       11-29. (cancelled)